

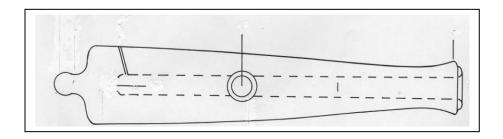
Name:

## Museum Activity 8

Complete the questions, with assistance from teachers or a park ranger.

ARTIFACTS. Artifacts are objects or materials from a past culture or civilization, and artifacts usually tell us information about the people or events from the past. The collection at Fort Donelson National Battlefield contains approximately 4,500 items. Only the best ones are displayed in the museum. A large number of the preserved artifacts are related to the battle: fragments of weapons, knives, soldier's uniforms, and even

fragments of weapons, knives, soldier's uniforms, and even cannons. Some of the items you'll see in the museum cases were found at this battlefield; but some of the items are donated from other parks.



1. **CANNONS**. The cannon in the museum is an original Confederate gun made in Nashville, Tennessee. This is a called a "six-pounder" because it fired a cannonball that weighed six pounds.

Use these terms to label the diagram: trunnion, casabel, muzzle, vent, barrel.

How was the cannon loaded and fired? How many soldiers were needed to operate this gun?

2. THE SOLDIER EXPERIENCE. Several thousand Confederates were surrendered on February 16, 1862. There is an original photograph featured in the museum.



Who is this soldier? Using context clues from the exhibit text and artifacts, what can you learn about his experience at Fort Donelson?

Search for the photograph/exhibit of Private Voltaire Twombly (case near the museum exit). What did he do during the battle? How would you describe his actions?

3. **MEDICINE IN THE CIVIL WAR**. Find the surgical kit and the medical kit in the museum. These are smaller, portable versions used by doctors on the battlefield, and usually carried by the doctor on horseback. Volunteers, hospital workers, and doctors searched the battlefield at Fort Donelson looking for wounded soldiers. Many soldiers were carried to temporary hospitals (local homes). Wounded soldiers suffered because of the cold, icy weather conditions.

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## Fort Donelson National Battlefield

Medical technology in the 19<sup>th</sup> century depended on the skill and experience of the army doctors. Some may have used the method of "bloodletting" to try to cure disease or illness. Doctors used an instrument called a "lancet" to cut the patient's skin for bloodletting. See if you can find this instrument.

What other types of instruments do you see in the kit?

What other objects in the museum would have been used by field doctors? Name these items or draw on the back of this sheet:



4. A LESSON IN LEADERSHIP. Two military leaders were identified by some historians as "rising stars in the West." Who were these men? Why were their actions so important at Fort Donelson? What character traits did both men share?

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4. REFLECTION. During your visit to the museum, did you see an artifact that you liked or thought was unusual? Draw or write about the object.

Why did you choose this object? How was it used? What does it say about 19<sup>th</sup> American culture?

Why should we preserve these artifacts? Write a short paragraph explaining why it is so important that the National Park Service takes care of these artifacts (use the back of this sheet).